



## PO AND SHOP UPDATE MARCH 2010

The Post Office has now appointed a new postmistress, Suzy Maschino Wang, who takes over the PO and shop when she has completed the PO training. We envisage that this will be in early May. In the meantime Alan continues to run the PO and shop on behalf of Alka and we are extremely grateful for their continued support. The village owes a huge debt of gratitude to Alan who has built up the custom in the shop. He travelled through the most appalling winter weather to ensure that it has stayed open and he has made himself an invaluable member of this community. We will be extremely sorry to see him go.

Since the shop has opened it has become the hub of many meetings, greetings and a wonderful source of information. We are the envy of other villages, some of which have approached the Committee asking how this village managed to do it. Those people who made this possible by their contributions should be rightly proud of their achievement. However, we cannot sit back complacently and think we have finished the job. We have not.

In the first instance we have to make sure there is a viable business for someone to invest in. In short there has to be potential to make it worthwhile someone coming to the village to run a shop. When that shop is viable and profitable, the NCS (representing you the shareholders and loan note holders) can charge the shop owner rent. That rent goes back to repay loans and then into the village for future projects.

We very much look forward to the new postmistress taking over the reins and we wait to see what ideas she will have to increase the shop's potential. It was interesting to note that, during the bad weather, the takings in the shop went up by £500 in one week. It just goes to show that it is needed. It goes without saying that if we don't use the shop and PO we risk losing it, to the detriment of the village as a whole. We know that most people use supermarkets. However, buying bread, milk, some store cupboard items, sweets and a newspaper would make all the difference to the shop keeper and ultimately to the village. If every person in the village shopped for something there each week and spent approximately £5 per week the shop turnover would be vastly improved.

Alan has gone out of his way to get things in the shop that people ask for. We all need to rally behind Suzy and help her get it right for the village. She is willing to learn and she very much wants to be part of a community.

The next phase for the development of the shop means that NCS Committee will be working with the Village Hall Committee, headed up by Patti Earl, to fund raise for a permanent shop premise on the Village Hall site. Patti and her committee are already doing fund raising events and we would all be most grateful if anyone else wanted to do a fund raiser. We are a diverse crew in the village so we look forward to hearing of lots of different fund raising ventures with something to suit everyone.

Liz Minter  
Chairman NCS

One note for your diaries:

Prof. Mark Connelly has offered to do a battlefield tour to Ypres on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September. Details of times and costs will follow.

